CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A composition comprising an isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptide.

2. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polypeptide has a molecular weight selected from the group of approximately 33 kDa, 38 kDa, and 42 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

3. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polypeptide has a molecular weight selected from the group of approximately 32.7 kDa, 37.8 kDa, or 42.1 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

4. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polypeptide is a mixture of two or more isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptides having a molecular weight selected from the group of approximately 33 kDa, 38 kDa, and 42 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

5. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polypeptide is a mixture of two or more isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptides having a molecular weight selected from the group of approximately 32.7 kDa, 37.8 kDa, or 42.1 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

6. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polypeptide is a mixture of three isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptides having molecular weights of approximately 33 kDa, 38 kDa, and 42 kDa, respectively, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

7. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polypeptide is a mixture of three isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptides having molecular weights of approximately 32.7 kDa, 37.8 kDa, or 42.1 kDa, respectively, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

8. A method for detecting *T. solium* in a biological sample comprising combining the sample with a composition comprising an isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptide and detecting the binding of the polypeptide to an anti-polypeptide antibody in the sample.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein the polypeptide has a molecular weight selected from the group of approximately 33 kDa, 38 kDa, and 42 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

10. The method of Claim 8 wherein the polypeptide has a molecular weight selected from the group of approximately 32.7 kDa, 37.8 kDa, or 42.1 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

11. The method of Claim 8 wherein the polypeptide is a mixture of two or more isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptides having a molecular weight selected from the group of approximately 33 kDa, 38 kDa, and 42 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

12. The method of Claim 8 wherein the polypeptide is a mixture of two or more isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptides having a molecular weight selected from the group of approximately 32.7 kDa, 37.8 kDa, or 42.1 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

13. The method of Claim 8 wherein the polypeptide is a mixture of three isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptides having molecular weights of approximately 33 kDa, 38 kDa, and 42 kDa, respectively, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

14. The method of Claim 8 wherein the polypeptide is a mixture of three isolated, adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptides having molecular weights of approximately 32.7 kDa, 37.8 kDa, or 42.1 kDa, respectively, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.

15. The method of Claim 8 wherein the binding is detected by immunoassay.

16. The method of Claim 15 wherein the immunoassay is an immunoblot assay.

17. The method of Claim 8 wherein the biological sample is a biological fluid.

18. The method of Claim 8 wherein the biological sample is a biological fluid selected from the group consisting of blood serum, blood plasma and saliva.

19. A method for diagnosing taeniasis in a human comprising contacting a biological sample of the human with an adult *Taenia solium* excretory/secretory polypeptide and detecting the binding of antibody present in the biological sample to the polypeptide, wherein the detection of binding indicates taeniasis.

20. The method of Claim 19 wherein the polypeptide has a molecular weight selected from the group consisting of approximately 33 kDa, 38 kDa, and 42 kDa, as determined by SDS-PAGE analysis.